

...ctor of the works of the enemy had been ascer-
ed, the heaves of our forces had been proved.
Saturday A. M., Feb. 8.—The rain which com-
enced falling last evening continued at intervals
during the night, and this morning was cold and dis-
al. At an early hour rapid firing of musketry and
shell-pieces was heard on the island, and subsequent
intelligence was brought that our troops had en-
aged the enemy in force behind a battery, near the
center of the island, and were having a hard fight,
with considerable loss. The gunboats *Underwriter*,
and *Lockwood* went up abreast of and even
eyond Park Point battery, which opened on them;
that if *hopes* had been entertained that the army
would during the night obtain possession of it
the storm, they were not realized; for, though the
battery did not use more than two guns, the *Rebels*
were still there in spite of the shower of shell rained
on them for eight hours yesterday. The firing was
kept up by the gunboats mentioned, and the South-
old and Valley City, nearly an hour, the battery re-
sisting but seldom, when a signal from the flag-ship
ended the contest. This was done to prevent our
and forces being fired on in case they should be ap-
proaching in the rear.

About 9 o'clock five *Rebel* schooners, towed by a
gun, were seen approaching *Wier's Point*, from the
north, loaded with troops, presumed to be re-enforce-
ments from *Nag's Head*. The piles not having been
moved from the channel, because the batteries still
defended them, the re-enforcements approached their
destination in safety, and were landed on the island,
Wier's Point.

It being a part of the plan of operations previously
formed to remove the barricade, *Flag-Officer Golds-*
borough confided that difficult work to *Lieut. Jeffers*
the *Underwriter*. This officer organized an ex-
pedition, consisting of the *Underwriter*, *Ceres*, *Lock-*
wood, *Pennine*, *Seymour*, *Brinker*, *Valley City*, and
Littlefield, and proceeded to the work of removing
at which the *Rebels* most relied on to prevent the
further progress of the expedition, and open a pas-
sage into *Albemarle Sound*. They started at 11 p.
m. Gradually feeling their way, they reconnoitered
the entire line of obstructions within short range of
the batteries. The *Ceres* finally effected an open-
ing, and was the first to go into *Albemarle Sound*.
turning she widened the passage, pretty much in
the manner one would expect an opening through
a rail fence. In attempting to follow her example,
the *Pennine* got aground in an exposed position. To
go on without her would be to leave her to her fate
and the batteries open. Therefore the whole ex-
pedition halted to get her off, which was not effected
until two hours had elapsed, then too late in the day
for further operations. But the barricade of the
enemy had been broken, and the eight boats that had
been the work anchored in *Albemarle Sound* for the
night.

Saturday Evening, Feb. 8.—A victory has been
won that will thrill every loyal heart in the land.
At once the Government set out earnest to
make a struggle for existence has the rebellion re-
ceived such a blow as has been dealt it by the ex-
pedition whose progress from day to day has been
watched with so much interest. To the *Rebels* it is
more than any Bull Run imaginable.

In pursuing the record, I will recapitulate some-
what. I have already mentioned the fact that the
landing of the troops began yesterday afternoon at
Whaley's Harbor (which, by the way, is as little
noted of the name as you can imagine), according
to the plan previously arranged by *Gen. Foster*.
The troops were taken in small steamers to within
about 400 feet of the shore, which distance the entire
force, in all about 11,000 men, were compelled to
make, at every step suiting to the middle into the
bottom. This was a most tedious and exhausting
operation, and the night was well advanced before
the troops landed. The rain was falling, a coast wester
was blowing at the time, and the men were com-
pelled to bivouac on the ground without protection of
any kind. But there was no murmuring. The
which had been shelled by the Delaware and other
gunboats which were hard by during the debarka-
tion. It was at this point the enemy emitted an op-
portunity by failing to oppose the landing of our
troops, who confidently expected to gain the shore in
the face of musketry at least. And they had good
reason to expect as much, for it came out afterward
that the *Rebels*, 2,000 strong, with three pieces of
artillery, were stationed in the woods to oppose the
landing. But they could not stand the shrapnel
of our gunboats that covered the landing, and they
retreated precipitately in all directions. In their flight,
they got entangled in the thick undergrowth,
and became stalled in the swamps, and were com-
pelled to abandon their guns, when they were after-
ward captured.

Information obtained from various sources repre-
sented the *Rebels* in force, entrenched on what they
regarded as their stronghold, near the middle of
the land, from three to five miles from the place where
our troops landed. By daybreak this morning, *Gen.*
Foster and his brigade in motion to attack them, fol-
lowed soon after by the brigades of *Gen. Reno* and
Gen. Parks. The advance was supported by six how-
itzers, commanded by *Mississippien Porter* and *Ham-*
mond, and manned in part from the fleet. After
riding a creek, *Gen. Foster's* force came up with
the enemy's pickets, who fired their pieces and ran.
striking the main road, the brigade paused on, and
after marching a mile and a half came in sight of
the enemy's position. To properly under and its
great strength, in addition to what skillful engineer-
ing had done, the reader will bear in mind that the
land, which is low and sandy, is cut up and dotted
with marshes and lagoons. On the right and left of
the enemy's morass, seemed impassable, stretched
out nearly the entire width of the island.

The upper and lower part of the island being
connected by the narrow neck on which the battery
was situated, and across which lay the road, the
battery of three guns had been located so as to rake
every inch of the narrow causeway, which, for some
distance, was the only approach to the work. *Gen.*
Foster immediately disposed his forces for attack, by
placing the 24th Massachusetts, supported by the
3d Massachusetts, in line, and opened with musketry
at all cannon. The enemy replied hotly with artillery
and infantry. While they were thus engaged, the
24th Massachusetts came up, and were ordered by
Gen. Foster to the left to the enemy in the woods,
where the *Rebel* sharpshooters were stationed. The
24th Connecticut was placed in support of the 24th
Massachusetts.

Gen. Reno now came up with his brigade, consist-
ing of the 21st Massachusetts, 51st New-York, 51st
Pennsylvania, and 9th New-Jersey, and pushing
through the swamps and tangled undergrowth, took
a position on the right, with the view of turning
the enemy. This was done with the greatest alac-
rity. Meanwhile, the contest raged hotly in front,
our men behaving gallantly, not wavering for a mo-
ment. The Massachusetts men vied with the men
of Connecticut; those of New-York and New-Jersey
encouragedly supporting their brethren of Pennsylv-
ania. Our troops were gradually overcoming the
difficulties which impeded their approach, and
though fighting at great disadvantage, and suffering
severely, were making steady advances. Regulars
were never more steady. *Gen. Burnside* was near
the place of landing, hurrying up the reserves, re-
ceiving reports, and, so far as practicable, giving
orders.

Gen. Foster was in active command on the ground.
His brave and collected manner, the skillfulness with
which he, as well as *Gen. Reno* and *Gen. Parks*,
maneuvered their forces, their example in front of